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THE  
**DUBLIN PENNY JOURNAL,**

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY.

No. 57, Vol. II.

P. DIXON HARDY, 3, CECILIA STREET.

August 3, 1833.

TO OUR READERS.


From the concluding paragraph of the last number of this little publication, its readers will be aware that it is now in the hands of a new Editor and Proprietor; and they will naturally expect that in the present number something should be said relative to its future management. "DEEDS not WORDS," has ever been the motto of its Conductor; and he will therefore merely say that it is his intention to give his readers good value for their money—that the DUBLIN PENNY JOURNAL shall not be a mere "catchpenny," depending upon the number and excellence of its woodcuts for extensive circulation; but containing, as he considers a publication of the kind should do, such a variety of interesting and useful matter as shall render it really valuable. Having fallen into his hands rather unexpectedly, it will be readily seen that it would be impossible for him all at once to carry his intentions into effect; but he trusts the readers of the Journal will be able to perceive, by a gradual improvement in each succeeding number, that he is making every exertion to render it worthy of that patronage which, it is only fair to expect, should be bestowed upon a useful national undertaking.

It is certainly rather discreditable to the national character of our country, that while so many periodicals are maintained with spirit and liberality in the sister island, in Ireland it has hitherto been found almost impossible to support a magazine or periodical of any description for any lengthened period: while in many instances it must be confessed, that this premature decay has not arisen from any deficiency of native genius or talent. Indeed, the simple fact, well known to most literary men, that a great proportion of the writers in the English and Scotch periodicals are Irishmen, is in itself proof positive on this point—that if encouragement were given to Irish publications, they would not be found inferior to works published elsewhere. From the progress of education among the lower orders of our people, it is now absolutely necessary to supply them with some cheap medium of information on the various subjects with which they should be acquainted. And what could be better suited to the purpose than such a work as the present? One thing is certain, that until the better orders of society see it their duty to foster and encourage the domestic literature of their country, no great hope can be entertained of elevating the peasantry to that standard in the scale of social and domestic life to which our neighbours on the other side of the channel have raised themselves. Why is it, for instance, that when a gentleman in this country requires a steward or a gardener, we find him advertising for a Scotchman or an Englishman—simply because, in England or Scotland the humbler classes, being better informed, see the necessity of having their children regularly trained to the various professions and pursuits in which they purpose employing them through life; and for the very same reason, in almost every trade we find individuals giving the preference to those who are natives not

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of this country. It may be thought that it is assuming too much for our little periodical to say that it would have any effect in remedying this evil. But we shall let it speak for itself. We know the wants and the capabilities of our countrymen, and it shall be our great object to endeavour to instruct while we amuse and gratify; and thus we do hope to be able to excite a thirst for information even beyond that which our pages might be able to supply.

That the Volume of the Dublin Penny Journal which has been published is highly creditable to its Editors and Publisher, few will deny; and we feel that in any other country their exertions would have been met by corresponding encouragement on the part of the people. The work is decidedly a national one, and one which might be rendered of great national importance, considering the present state of the country, which in an intellectual point of view is centuries behind the neighbouring lands, having an overgrown population uncultivated and untaught. Unhappily, however, with all the talk we hear about "our own, our native land," it must be confessed that there exists here very little of that *AMOR PATRIÆ* which we witness in other countries. Nor can a stronger evidence of this be given than in the circumstance, that with all that has been done to bring forward the beauties and the antiquities of Ireland in the Dublin Penny Journal, and to render it a really creditable publication, it has not been supported as it should have been. In future, therefore, while the antiquities of the country will not be neglected, the work shall exhibit a more general character in the subjects of its contents. It is thus hoped that the work will be more generally read and supported by the public at large; and we do fondly anticipate that those who are really anxious to see industry flourishing and talent supported in this land, will in future give their countenance and lend their support to a publication brought out in the Irish metropolis, and which affords constant employment to a number of individuals, artists and mechanics, several of whom would otherwise be obliged to seek for support in another clime.

 Literary contributions and drawings suited to the work are respectfully solicited.

POPULAR LEGENDS OF THE SOUTH.—No. VI.  
THE HEADLESS HORSEMAN OF  
SHANACLOCH.

It was one of those wild nights which frequently visit us in the month of December, when the floodgates of heaven pour their torrents, the winds rush angrily through the heavens, and the lightnings glance along the air, that a social and happy circle formed round the hospitable hearth of Tom Cahil, of Shanacloch. Though the rafters cracked in the weight of the savage wind, and the lofty ash trees, that rose amid the ruins of the adjacent castle, groaned to the elemental war, and the echoes of the neighbouring cliffs bore to our ear the hollow roaring of the foaming Bride, yet happy in the contemplation of our exemption from the storm, and enlivened by the much-loved strains of Jack Piggot, the purblind piper, we turned a deaf ear to nature'

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